



National EMS Information System, Technical Assistance Center - Salt Lake City, UT

History of NEMSIS

19-Sep-2007

The following timeline illustrates the major accomplishments leading up to the creation of a national EMS database:

(Most of the text for this timeline comes from Mears et al. Future EMS National Database, *Prehospital Emergency Care*, January/March 2002, Volume 6/Number 1.)

1973

Emergency Medical Services Systems Act

State EMS directors realize that they could not compare data from one state to another in any way or in any standard format or process. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare identifies 15 essential components of an EMS system. The first legislation to require data or documentation of EMS services.



1991

Utstein Style for Uniform Reporting of Data

First major document is published that specifically addresses EMS systems and their impact on patient outcome.

1994

NHTSA's Uniform Prehospital EMS Dataset Version 1.0

Realization that different data fields (across all EMS systems) exist for the same issue or event - there is a need for standardization. The National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) develops a national consensus document that defines 81 elements important to an EMS information system.



1996

EMS Agenda for the Future

After widespread national input, NHTSA publishes the *EMS Agenda for the Future...A Vision for the Nation's EMS System* outlining five recommendations for EMS information systems.

1997

Data Elements for Emergency Department Systems

PRIMARY TYPE OF SERVICE	DEFINITION
Data Format: [radio] single choice [radio] multiple choice	
Definition: The primary service type provided by the agency	
Field Values: 9619 911 Response (Dispatch) with Transport Capability 9620 No Medical 9650 Medical Transport (Consciousness) 9670 Resuscitate	
Uses: • Important for grouping or comparing EMS Agencies Data Collector: • EMS Agency and typically only documented once from Other Associated Elements: D01_01 EMS Agency Number	

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control publishes *Data Elements for Emergency Department Systems* which extends the concept of an information system to the emergency department by providing standards for data collection and linkages back to EMS.

1998

EMS Agenda Implementation Guide

NHTSA produces a follow-up document to *EMS Agenda for the Future* called *EMS Agenda for the Future: Implementation Guide*. The document gives suggestions or approaches for the development of 14 components of the *EMS Agenda for the future* - a comprehensive EMS information system is the backbone for future EMS development.

2001

NEMSIS Inception

The National Association of State EMS Directors in conjunction with its federal partners at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Trauma/EMS Systems program of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal Child Health Bureau work to develop a national EMS database—known as NEMSIS, the *National EMS Information System*.



2003

Memorandum of Understanding Signed**Member States Agreement to Conform to NHTSA Uniform Prehospital Dataset Version 2.0**

The MOU "recognized the need for EMS data collection at the national level" as well as the assignment of "specific definitions to a set of data elements identified as desirable to be collected on a national level." Fifty-two states and territories sign the memorandum.

2003

EMS Reason for Encounter

A two-year project funded by NHTSA is established to develop a coding system for EMS as well as a uniform description for the reason for an EMS encounter. It is based on EMS curricula and the NHTSA dataset.

2003

Creation of a National Data Dictionary (dataset)

After 18 months a 400 page detailed and complex data dictionary is completed. Information about each of the data elements, the variables, and the definitions associated with that data element as well as how to deploy the element in a database are described. See the **Data Dictionary's** latest release.



2004

Development of Schemas

Physical database schemas or models as well as scripts to automatically create the database are made available in different platforms.

2004

XML Chosen Standard

XML defined as the standard to move EMS data between local and state level or state and national database level. XML's open format provides an easy way to pass data between different software formats.

2005

EMS Uniform Prehospital Dataset Version 2.2

A solid dataset is released and schemas published on the website for integration. The Version 2.2 dataset was created through a national consensus process to update and revise the standard.

2005

Funding for the Technical Assistance Center

NHTSA, HRSA (EMSC), and the CDC see the value from the pilot phase of the project. They provide funding to create the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center.

The contract is given to the University of Utah School of Medicine (Utah) to



operate the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center. Utah partners with the University of North Carolina to handle all of the customer service needs.



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